Weekly Column for July 3, 2008

Happy Fourth of July!

Like so many urban communities, the illegal use of fireworks is going to be at the top of the list of issues for the police department to deal with this weekend.

As has been the case the previous few years, we have increased our police patrols, and will have a zero tolerance approach to fireworks and explosives throughout the City of Troy. The Street Crimes Unit in particular will be out in force tomorrow evening and throughout the holiday weekend.

We expect a heavy volume of calls to the Police Department through the weekend, so the patience of all residents will be much appreciated. If the officers see someone using fireworks they will be arrested.

Please be safe and look out for your neighbors. With the fourth falling on a Friday this year, I am sure many people have plans for the entire weekend. Enjoy your barbecuing, enjoy the various fireworks shows around the area, and enjoy the company of family and friends.

If you are looking to watch fireworks tomorrow night and do not want to travel to Albany, the Tri-City Valley Cats will have a great display in Troy following its 7 p.m. game against the Jamestown Jammers.

The Valley Cats also have fireworks following the game against Jamestown tonight.

We will also be entertained downtown tonight by the debut performance of the Troy Community Orchestra. That show kicks off at 6 p.m. in Riverfront Park.

Have a great holiday weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian Mayor of Troy